UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/806,545	06/18/2001	Takeshi Fujita	450131-03247	1281

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EXAMINER
ZHOU, TING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 May 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13,15 and 17-24* is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-13,15 and 17-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☐ All b)☒ Some * c)☐ None of:

  1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

  2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

  3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The amendment filed on 8 May 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 1-13, 15

and 17-24 as amended are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United
> States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who
> has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention
> thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999

(AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002

do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an

international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA

35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2.   Claims 4-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwamura

U.S. Patent 6,807,285.

Referring to claim 4, Iwamura teaches a system comprising means for storing a

displayable image into the image file (storing, or loading the displayable image data into a file

format shown in Figure 11) (column 17, line 43-column 18, line 4); means for embedding unique

identification information which uniquely identifies the image file into a non-displayable portion of the image file (embedding information that identifies the image such as image format identification data into the image header, which is not displayed when displaying the image from the image file) (column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4 and Figure 11); means for embedding a pointer to information used to display the displayable image and an instruction for handling the information (embedding public key information k_p, which is used for embedding information D1, including the embedding location and the embedding procedure) (column 5, lines 34-41 and Figure 11), the pointer and the instruction configured to be dealt as one pair so that at least one pair of the pointer and the instruction is recorded (embedding information D1 includes the embedding location, embedding procedure and the digital watermark) (column 5, lines 15-28, 34-41, column 6, lines 23-31 and column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 4 and Figure 11), wherein the pointer and the instruction are embedded in an area of the image file that is not used for displaying the image (the embedded watermark, public key information and other information used to display the image such as the size of the image are stored in the image header field, which is not displayed when displaying the image from the image file; when displaying the image file, only the image data itself is displayed) (column 5, lines 41-60, column 6, lines 23-31 and column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 4 and Figure 11), wherein the means for embedding prevents unauthorized redirecting from the displayable image (embedding the watermark with the image data prevents illegal copies or alteration/destruction of the image) (column 1, lines 33-48, column 5, lines 41-47 and column 6, lines 23-31).

Referring to claim 5, Iwamura teaches an index for a menu item corresponding to the image file (index list of attributes for the image) (column 19, lines 24-27).

Referring to claim 7, Iwamura teaches an information processing means for reading out

the image file in response to a request from a terminal device and returning it to the terminal

device (reading out, or extracting embedded second information from digital data in order to

recover the first information) (column 4, line 10-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Iwamura U.S. Patent 6,807,285 and Hoyle U.S. Patent 6,141,010.

Referring to claim 1, Iwamura teaches a system comprising means for receiving a

displayable image and related data to the displayable image (the apparatus is supplied, or

receives a displayable image G and related data, such as public key information and embedding

information) (Iwamura: column 5, lines 15-21 and lines 53-61); means for recording the

displayable image into the image file (recording, or loading the image data and related

information into a file format shown in Figure 11) (Iwamura: column 17, line 43-column 18, line

4); means for embedding unique identification information which uniquely identifies the image

file into a non-displayable portion of the image file (embedding information that identifies the

image such as image format identification data into the image header, which is not displayed

when displaying the image from the image file) (Iwamura: column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4

and Figure 11); and means for preventing unauthorized redirecting from the displayable image

by embedding the related data into the image file, which already includes the displayable image

(embedding related data such as the watermark and confidential information into the image file

comprising the image data G in order to prevent illegal copies or alteration/destruction of the

image) (Iwamura: column 1, lines 33-48, column 5, lines 41-47 and column 6, lines 23-31).

However, Iwamura fails to explicitly teach the related data includes pointers to at least one item

of information enabling redirection from the displayable image to a site having the at least one

item of information. Hoyle teaches a system that stores a displayable image and related data

together as an image file or set (Hoyle: column 14, line 59-column 15, line 6 and Figure 7)

similar to that of Iwamura. In addition, Hoyle further teaches the related data includes pointers

to at least one item of information enabling redirection from the displayable image to a site

having the at least one item of information (the image file data sets comprise a number of user

selectable links, or pointers, that will cause redirection to the corresponding URL site upon

selection) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art, having the teachings of Iwamura and Hoyle before him at the time the invention was

made, to modify the image file of Iwamura to include the pointers taught by Hoyle. One would

have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide a secure and authorized

way for users to browse through sites on the Internet; for example, by allowing the redirection of

only links that are associated with a particular image, the data integrity and security of the

image/file is protected.

Referring to claim 2, Iwamura, as modified, teach a system comprising a file generator configured to generate the image file including a first area and a second area (creating a file of the format including two areas, an image header field and an image data field) (Iwamura: column 17, lines 43-60 and Figure 11), the file generator including a first area recorder configured to record first data used to display a displayable image onto the first area (the image file is divided into a first area configured to record data used to display an image, or the image data file storing the image data itself) (Iwamura: column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 4 and Figure 11); and a second area recorder configured to record second data related to but not used to display the displayable image onto the second area (the image file is divided into a second area configured to record data related to but not used to display the image, or the image header field, recording information such as a digital watermark, key information, image attribute information, etc.) (Iwamura: column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 4 and Figure 11), the second area recorder operating to record the second data to prevent unauthorized redirecting from the displayable image (the watermark recorded in the image header field prevents illegal copies or alteration/destruction of the image) (Iwamura: column 1, lines 33-48, column 5, lines 41-47 and column 6, lines 23-31), wherein the second data includes pointers to at least one item of information enabling redirection from displayable image to a site including the at least one item of information (the image file data sets comprise a number of user selectable links, or pointers, that will cause redirection to the corresponding URL site upon selection) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49), wherein the second data include unique identification information which uniquely identifies the image file (the image header includes information that identifies the image such as

image format identification data) (Iwamura: column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4 and Figure 11).

Referring to claim 3, Iwamura, as modified, teach a system comprising an image recorder configured to record a displayable image in the image file (recording, or loading the displayable image data into a file format shown in Figure 11) (Iwamura: column 17, line 43-column 18, line 4); a data embedding apparatus configured to prevent unauthorized redirecting from the displayable image by embedding related data related to the displayable image in an area of the image file that is ignored when data from the image file is used to display the displayable image (the embedding apparatus embeds related data such as the watermark and confidential information into the image file comprising the image data G in order to prevent illegal copies or alteration/destruction of the image; the embedded watermark and image header information are ignored, or not displayed when displaying the image from the image file; when displaying the image file, only the image data itself is displayed) (Iwamura: column 5, lines 41-60, column 6, lines 23-31 and column 17, line 57 – column 18, line 4), wherein the related data includes pointers to at least one item of information enabling redirection from the displayable image to a site including at least one item of information (the image file data sets comprise a number of user selectable links, or pointers, that will cause redirection to the corresponding URL site upon selection) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49) and wherein the related data includes unique identification information which uniquely identifies the image file (embedding information that identifies the image such as image format identification data into the image header, which is not displayed when displaying the image from the image file) (Iwamura: column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4 and Figure 11).

Referring to claim 6, Iwamura, as modified, teach a method comprising receiving a

displayable image and related data related to the displayable image (the apparatus is supplied, or

receives a displayable image G and related data, such as public key information and embedding

information) (Iwamura: column 5, lines 15-21 and lines 53-61); recording the displayable image

into the image file (recording, or loading the image data and related information into a file

format shown in Figure 11) (Iwamura: column 17, line 43-column 18, line 4); embedding unique

identification information which uniquely identifies the image file into a non-displayable portion

of the image file (embedding information that identifies the image such as image format

identification data into the image header, which is not displayed when displaying the image from

the image file) (column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4 and Figure 11); and preventing

unauthorized redirecting from the displayable image by embedding the related data into the

image file, which already includes the displayable image (embedding related data such as the

watermark and confidential information into the image file comprising the image data G in order

to prevent illegal copies or alteration/destruction of the image) (Iwamura: column 1, lines 33-48,

column 5, lines 41-47 and column 6, lines 23-31), wherein the related data includes pointers to at

least one item of information enabling redirection from the displayable image to a site having the

at least one item of information (the image file data sets comprise a number of user selectable

links, or pointers, that will cause redirection to the corresponding URL site upon selection)

(Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49).

4.   Claims 8-13, 15, 17 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Hoyle U.S. Patent 6,141,010 and Iwamura U.S. Patent 6,807,285.

Referring to claim 8, Hoyle teaches a computer program comprising executable

instructions that cause a computer to execute the steps of: monitoring an access to an information

image file managed in a first managing area of the informational image file (the first window

region displayed on the GUI comprises user-selectable items, associated with image files, or data

sets) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-32), displaying an image based on image related information

included in the information image file on a second managing area, and managing the information

image file on the second managing area, when the information image file managed in the first

managing area is accessed (the second program module, in response to user selection of one of

the links in the first window region, can select associated information, stored as data sets, or

image files, in the database, to be displayed in the second, or information display region) (Hoyle:

column 4, lines 32-49), monitoring an access to an information image file managed in the second

managing area of the informational image file, accessing and executing a file pointed to by the

predetermined pointer or a corresponding file stored in advance on a local recording medium,

when the information image file managed in the second managing area is accessed (in response

to user interaction with the computer, such as user clicking on a banner advertisement displayed

in the second, or information display region, the programs, or links associated with the

advertisement are initiated) (Hoyle: column 9, lines 49-59). For example, as shown in Figures 5,

5a and 7, in response to the category selected by the user from the first managing area

comprising the hierarchical display of selectable categories (Hoyle: Figure 5a), corresponding

banner ad 78 is displayed in the second managing area (Hoyle: Figure 5), and upon user selection

of the advertising banner, the user is directed to the corresponding link associated with the

banner; the information associated with each banner is stored as an image file data set in the

database (each row of the banner database) (Hoyle: Figure 7), wherein the image related

information included in the information image file on the second managing area includes unique

identification information which uniquely identifies the information image file (the image file

includes information that identifies the image, such as the image file name) (Hoyle: column 14,

line 59-column 15, line 6 and Figure 7). However, although Hoyle teaches storing the image file

and image related information together as one data set (Hoyle: column 14, line 59 – column 15,

line 6 and Figure 7), Hoyle fails to explicitly teach preventing unauthorized redirecting from the

image by including the image on the first managing area and the image related information on

the second managing area in the same information image file. Iwamura teaches a recording

apparatus that stores image data and image related information together (Iwamura: column 17,

line 58 – column 18, line 4 and Figure 11) similar to that of Hoyle. In addition, Iwamura further

teaches preventing unauthorized redirecting from the image by including the image on the first

managing area and the image related information on the second managing area in the same

information image file (embedding image related information such as a watermark or some

confidential information with the digital image to protect and manage the copyright of the

original image) (Iwamura: column 3, lines 16-48, column 5, lines 15-47 and column 6, lines 23-

31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of

Hoyle and Iwamura before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the image file

processing program for managing the image and image related information of Hoyle to include

storing the image and image related information in the same image file, taught by Iwamura. One

would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to protect and manage the

copyright of the image, preventing illegal copying and alteration of the contents of the image.

Referring to claim 9, Hoyle, as modified, teach an access to an information image file managed in the first managing area being a drag and drop operation for a corresponding image (Hoyle: column 10, lines 11-18).

Referring to claim 10, Hoyle, as modified, teach an access to an information image file managed in the first managing area being a selection operation for a menu displayed with respect to the corresponding image (Hoyle: column 9, lines 39-44 and further shown by reference character "70" in Figure 5).

Referring to claim 11, Hoyle, as modified, teach an access to an information image file managed in the first managing area being a drag and drop operation for a menu (drag and drop operations for adding or removing buttons on the toolbar menu) displayed with respect to a corresponding information image file (Hoyle: column 11, lines 21-29).

Referring to claim 12, Hoyle, as modified, teach an access to an information image file managed in the first managing area being a click operation for a corresponding image (Hoyle: column 9, lines 57-59 and column 15, lines 3-6).

Referring to claim 13, Hoyle, as modified, teach an access to an information image file managed in the first managing area being a drag and drop operation for a corresponding information image file (Hoyle: column 10, lines 11-18).

Referring to claim 15, Hoyle, as modified, teach the first managing area being a window for viewing a web page of a WWW browser, a window for viewing a body of e-mail software, a window for checking an attached file of e-mail software, a folder window for referring a file stored on a recording medium, or a window which is displayed by operating input means for an image or an image file (the first managing area displays a graphical user interface comprising a

window capable of displaying links to different information sources, such as WWW pages or image files such as banners) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 22-35).

Referring to claim 17, Hoyle, as modified, teach the first managing area and second managing area formed and managed by independent programs (the first managing area is formed and managed by the first program module, or GUI module and the second managing area is formed and managed by the second program module, or the ADM module) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-50 and column 6, lines 62-65).

Referring to claim 19, Hoyle, as modified, teach a view of the first managing area and a view of the second managing area displayed simultaneously with a frame, as shown in Figures 5 and 5a of Hoyle, where the area for displaying ads is shown in the same window, or frame, as the GUI containing the menu item icons for manipulating the interface display.

Referring to claim 20, Hoyle, as modified, teach when an access is made to an information image file managed in a first markup description language file which is a first managing area, a second markup description language file which is a second managing area is read out from memory means, and, after the second markup description language file is updated so that the second markup description language file manages the information image file, the second markup description language file is executed (when the user selection of a link in the first program module is detected, the second program module is operable to select and display the informational data) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49).

Referring to claims 21-24, Hoyle, as modified, teach an information processing means for reading out the image file in response to a request and displaying the image file on a display device (in response to user selection of a category shown in Figure 5a, such as "Sports",

"Players", etc., an associated banner advertisement image associated with the category selection will be displayed) (Hoyle: column 4, lines 19-49, column 5, lines 48-67 and column 9, lines 49-59).

5.   Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyle U.S. Patent 6,141,010 and Iwamura U.S. Patent 6,807,285, as applied to claims 8 and 17 above, and Shaw et al. U.S. Patent 5,809,242.

Referring to claim 18, Hoyle and Iwamura teach all of the limitations as applied to claims 8 and 17 above. However, Hoyle and Iwamura fail to explicitly teach view selection tabs for selecting one of views of a first managing area and a view of a second managing area. Shaw et al. teach an image file (banner) processing device similar to that of Hoyle and Iwamura. In addition, Shaw et al. further teach displaying view selection tabs for selecting one of views of a first managing area (first managing area tab for reading emails) and a view of a second managing area (second managing area tab for writing emails) in order to display selectively the managing area at a side of a tab selected through input means (Shaw et al.: column 16, lines 66-67 and continuing onto column 17, lines 1-19 and Figure 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hoyle, Iwamura and Shaw et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the image file processing systems of Hoyle and Iwamura to include the use of selection tabs taught by Shaw et al. It would have been advantageous to make such a combination in order to better organize the display of information shown to the user; separating information categories into groups and displaying them in separate

tabs will allow the users to see all the functions and information relating to one group, without

getting confused by the cluttered display of mixed information from multiple groups.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments filed 6 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive:

7.   The applicant argues that Iwamura does not teach or suggest means for embedding

unique identification information which uniquely identifies the image file into a non-displayable

portion of the image file. The examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in Figure 11, Iwamura

teaches that the image file is divided into two portions, the image data unit, which is displayed

when the image is displayed (displaying the pixels of the image itself), and the image header

portions, which contains information about the image data, but is not displayed. Among the

information included in the image header unit is identification information such as image format

identification data; this is further described in column 17, line 58-column 18, line 4. Therefore,

the examiner respectfully argues that Iwamura and the combination of Iwamura and Hoyle teach

the subject limitations.

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

        A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to. expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ

KIEU D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER